

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

704 KAR 3:340; KRS 156.070; KRS 156:160

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve revisions to 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Commonwealth Diploma Program, instituted by the Kentucky Board of Education, provides recognition at graduation ceremonies to students who complete program criteria. The program also reimburses the AP and IB examination fees for students who attain a minimum composite score.

The current requirements for the Commonwealth Diploma are based on students completing at least 22 units of credit including the minimum graduation requirements, any additional courses specified by the local board of education, successful completion of the pre-college curriculum, at least four (4) Advanced Placement (AP) or four (4) International Baccalaureate (IB) courses with a grade of “C” or better, and completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB content areas without regard to score.

Policy Issues:

1. Should the attached regulation be revised to allow students to complete a combination of AP and IB to qualify? Currently, the program does not allow students who complete a combination of AP and IB courses to qualify. While there are only a few schools that offer both AP and IB, this creates a hardship on students who do so and wish to experience both of these rigorous programs. Staff recommends making this change.
2. Should the attached regulation be revised to ensure students are only reimbursed if they attain a three (3) or higher on the examinations? The current program provides examination reimbursement for students who attain a composite score of eight (8) or higher on a combination of three (3) examinations. This provides reimbursements to students who may not reach the standard of success expected

on the examinations. KDE proposes that the regulation be revised to ensure students are only reimbursed if they attain a three (3) or higher on the examinations. This aligns with the Council on Postsecondary Education policy that ensures students who attain a three (3) or higher on the examination are granted college credit.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:

Staff recommends the KBE approve the amendments proposed to 704 KAR 3:340. The amendments allow flexibility relative to AP and IB courses and support students achieving at high levels by requiring a score of 3 or higher on the exams for reimbursement purposes.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Proficiency in all content areas involves students taking rigorous courses, a level of student accountability and attainment of performance standards.

Contact Person:

Jamie Spurnardi, Associate Commissioner
Office of Teaching and Learning
502-564-2106
Jamie.spurnardi@education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2008